



Shanghai University of Finance & Economics

2020 Summer Program

ART 101 Introduction to Art History from Prehistoric to Medieval

Course Outline

Term: June 1 – June 26, 2020

Class Hours: 10:00-11:50 (Monday through Friday)

Discussion session: 2.5 hours each week

Course Code: ART 101

Instructor: Professor Ross Hamilton

Home Institution: Barnard College, Columbia University, New York

Office Hours: TBA

Email: rhamilto@barnard.edu

Credit: 4

Class Hours: This course will have 52 class hours, including 32 lecture hours, professor 8 office hours, 8-hour TA discussion sessions, 4-hour review sessions.

Course Description

This course will survey the history of Western art from the Paleolithic period to the end of the Medieval period. Lectures and discussion will be supplemented by accompanied by sketching practice, serving both as an aid to memorization and giving an awareness of artistic form and technique. This course will survey the history of Western art from the Paleolithic period to the end of the Medieval period. Lectures and discussion will be supplemented by accompanied by sketching practice, serving both as an aid to memorization and giving an awareness of artistic form and technique.

Course Goals

This course will acquaint students with the key artistic moments, and key artworks, in the West from the Paleolithic to the Medieval era. Throughout, the lectures will link the art works to the historical



moment of their production. We will also learn the central concepts as well as skills of art interpretation. Finally, exercises in sketching artwork will allow us to consider the acts of creation for the artworks under consideration.

Required Text

Janson's Basic History of Western Art (Pearson Publications). Note that I do NOT require the most recent edition, as the text does not change drastically from year to year.

We will also supply you with a reader “R” that contains additional materials, both primary sources that inform our understanding of the artist or artwork, as well as critical essays that help us interpret it. As well as the assigned textbook reading, you should expect one reading from source material and one critical reading per two-hour lecture.

Course Requirements

Final Grade Percentages

- Class Participation 10%: regular attendance and participation is requested.
- 2 Reaction Papers (20% each): you will be asked to write two reaction papers (4 pages) on key artistic movements. Reaction papers will describe the artwork assigned, identify the central innovations and techniques used to create the work, and then consider the relation of that work to the period in which it was created – both as innovation as well as a reflection of aesthetic practice.
- Midterm 20%
- Final Exam 30%: overall evaluation at end of semester

A note on participation. This is a lecture course, but students are expected to follow the lectures closely and be prepared to answer occasional questions asked in class by the professor. Students will be expected to participate fully in the discussion sections led by the teaching assistant.

Grading Policy

Number grade	Letter grade	GPA
90-100	A	4.0
85-89	A-	3.7
80-84	B+	3.3
75-79	B	3.0
70-74	B-	2.7
67-69	C+	2.3
65-66	C	2.0
62-64	C-	1.7
60-61	D	1.0
≤59	F (Failure)	0

Course Schedule



Note: for each section, read the accompanying material in Jansons, as well as the assigned essay and primary source from the reader

Part One:

Introduction: Introduction to the History of Art and its terminology, aesthetics and form, the nature of a formal reading, the practice of sketching.

Paleolithic Art

Ancient Near Eastern Art

Egyptian Art

Readings: the associated chapters from your edition of Jansons for each of the above categories.

Paleolithic Art: Christian Violati, “The Meaning of European Upper European Paleolithic Rock Art” **R**

Ancient Near Eastern Art: Zaineb Bahrani, *Art of Mesopotamia*, pp. 1-15 **R**

Egyptian Art: from Metropolitan Museum, *Egyptian Art* pp. 22-34 **R**

First Paper: A formal analysis of an artwork not analyzed in lecture. Due the following class.

Part Two:

Greek Art

Greek Art II

Etruscan Art

Roman Art

Roman Art II

Readings: the associated chapters from your edition of Jansons for each of the above categories.

Greek Art: Robin Osborne, *Greek Art* pp. 12-24 **R**

Etruscan Art: Nigel Spivey, *Etruscan Art*, pp. 4-19 **R**

Roman Art: Mortimer Wheeler, *Roman Art* pp. 8-34 **R**

Part Three:

MONDAY: Midterm Exam

Part One: Art Identifications

Part Two: Essay

Part Three: Sketch

Jewish and Early Christian Art

Byzantine Art

Islamic Art

Comparative Lecture: Art from China and the Indian Subcontinent in relation to contemporaneous Western artworks.



Readings: the associated chapters from your edition of Jansons for each of the above categories.

Early Christian Art: Robin Jensen, Understanding Early Christian Art pp.2-33 **R**

Byzantine Art: Robin Cormack, Byzantine Art, pp. 7-29 **R**

Islamic Art: Eric Broug, Islamic Geometric Design, pp. 22-34 **R**

Paper 2:

Comparative analysis of an object from Byzantine and Islamic Art.

Part Four:

Early Medieval Art

Romanesque Art

Gothic Art I

Gothic Art II

Readings: the associated chapters from your edition of Jansons for each of the above categories.

Early Medieval Art: Lawrence Nees, Early Medieval Art **R**

Romanesque Art: Eric Fernie, Romanesque Architecture, pp. 1-15 **R**

Gothic Art: from Erwin Panofsky, Gothic Art and Scholasticism pp. 22-34 **R**

Part Five:

Venetian Art

Islamic Art

Influences from Asia and the Spice Route

Early Renaissance

Readings: the associated chapters from your edition of Jansons for each of the above categories.

Early Renaissance Art: Steffi Roettgen, Italian Frescoes pp. 2-31 **R**

Final Exam

Part One: Art Identifications from the ENTIRE COURSE

Part Two: Essay dealing with the ENTIRE COURSE

Part Three: Two sketches from the ENTIRE COURSE